

The International Network to Promote Rule of Law (INPROL)



Issue Paper No. 2006-07
January 2007

By J. Hank Nichols

BACKGROUND

The International Network to Promote the Rule of Law (INPROL) will be launched in early 2007. It is a project of the United States Institute of Peace (<http://www.usip.org/>) in partnership with the Center of Excellence for Stability Police Units (CoESPU) (<http://coespu.carabinieri.it/>), the Pearson Peacekeeping Centre, (<http://www.peaceoperations.org/>), and the Public International Law & Policy Group, (<http://www.publicinternationallaw.org/>). INPROL is a consortium of practitioners joined together to develop the human capacity and intellectual resources required to promote the rule of law in countries transitioning from war to peace. The Security Sector and Rule of Law Reform Directorate of the US Army Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute (PKSOI) has been involved with this effort since the original concept was proposed. INPROL was proposed by USIP's Michael Dziedzic in 2003 as the result of his experiences in the area of rule of law the UN Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). He desired to establish a "one-stop-shop" for rule of law practitioners who are facing important issues requiring quick action but do not have adequate time and/or staff support to do thorough research.

DISCUSSION

INPROL is an additional resource for persons involved in stability operations national, coalition and/or international organization missions. INPROL is an international community asset that offers a wide perspective on practices and solutions in the area of rule of law. All information is presented in an unclassified setting and available to network members. The network seeks to foster a holistic and integrated approach to the rule of law by incorporating all professional communities involved, including, but not limited to, judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, senior police officials, stability police commanders, corrections officials, legal advisors, legal monitors and judicial administrators. It seeks to turn "lessons learned" from previous experience about promoting the rule of law into lessons that are actually applied. Practitioners in the field are often too occupied with current operations to adequately research and gather pertinent information and data regarding the problems they face. The internet-based INPROL network provides those serving in the field the ability to exchange information with other experienced practitioners as well as access to relevant documents, best practices and related materials. One example of INPROL's usefulness is as a medium for collaboration for PKSOI, USIP, CoESPU

Hank Nichols is a Professor of Rule of Law at the Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute.

the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations and others to develop a formed police unit doctrine and exercises.

The INPROL database will be indexed by countries, specific missions and operations and discrete subjects within the area of rule of law. The site will contain discussion forums for rule of law communities of practice. Initially, three INPROL forums will be operational: general rule of law, senior police commanders and stability police commanders. Other forums may be developed in the future. Members of these discussion forums may submit questions and requests for information to expert facilitators serving each of these communities. The member submitting the query will receive a consolidated response incorporating feedback from forum members and the results of research into relevant practices and scholarship on the issue. This resource will facilitate the dissemination of important information in a timely manner. The discussions will be archived, searchable and consolidated into a usable body of knowledge. The facilitators were selected by the INPROL team at USIP with assistance from their partners, the Pearson Peacekeeping Centre, Center of Excellence for Stability Police Units, and the Public International Law & Policy Group. The website is currently funded and hosted at USIP.



The INPROL Advisory Council is composed a diverse group of persons in the area of Rule of Law. The Council of Experts members are a carefully selected group of rule of law experts from the three INPROL communities of practice—general rule of law, police commanders and stability police. These experts will be asked to help ensure that INPROL functions in a manner that is responsive to the needs of its membership and growing communities of practice. They will also be asked to provide guidance in devising policies that will govern the activities of the network and to support the vigorous use of INPROL. The members of both Councils are listed at the end of this article.

MEMBERSHIP

INPROL membership consists of many of the international community's most experienced professionals, and its advisory board includes global leaders in the field. The network is open to those currently serving in a rule of law related capacity in field missions or those who have previously done so, as well as scholars and others with specialized expertise of relevance to this community. One can only become a member through the recommendation of an existing member in order for the network to be useful to members of the community of practice. The INPROL website is currently on line in a limited manner and more information should appear there in the near future. For more information, visit: www.inprol.org.

CONCLUSION

INPROL will be a valuable addition to the kit bag of tools for rule of law practitioners in stability

operations. Rule of law missions have grown exponentially in recent years. Many persons have been sent to the field without the necessary training, education and/or experience. INPROL will provide the international and local rule of law practitioners in the field with immediate information needs to a moderated knowledge network that connects them with the best expertise in the community, experienced practitioners as well as specialists. INPROL also provides them access to historical documents and lessons learned in order to assist them performing their missions in a timely, efficient and successful manner.

Advisory Council

Paddy Ashdown

High Representative, Bosnia and Herzegovina (2002-2006)

M. Cherif Bassiouni

President, International Human Rights Law Institute

James Dobbins

Special Envoy for Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia, Kosovo and Afghanistan (1993-2002)

Louise Frechette

Deputy Secretary General, United Nations (1998-2006)

Paddington Garwe

Judge, High Court of Zimbabwe

Yash Ghai

Chair, Constitution of Kenya Review Commission (2000-2004)

Richard Goldstone

Justice, Constitutional Court of South Africa

Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Husseini

Permanent Representative of Jordan to the United Nations

Juan E. Mendez

Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide, United Nations (2004-2006)

Richard Monk

Senior Police Advisor for the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe (2002-2006)

John Norton Moore

Professor, University of Virginia School of Law; Director, Center for Oceans Law and Policy

Satish Nambiar

Director, United Service Institute of India; United Nations Commander (1992-1993)

William Nash

Commander, Multinational Division North, Bosnia (1995-1997)

Sandra Day O'Connor

Justice, United States Supreme Court (1981-2006)

William Walker

Head, Kosovo Verification Mission, OSCE (1998-1999)

Council of Experts

Steve Bennett

Head of Police School, United Nations Interim Admin. Mission in Kosovo

Scott Carlson

Director, Europe and Eurasia, Chemonics

Stefan Feller

Head, European Union Police Force

Michael Hartmann

Advisor to the Attorney General, US Department of State

Halvor Hartz

Police Commissioner, United Nations

Agnieszka Klonowiczka

International Judge, Kosovo

Bill O'Neill

United Nations Task Force on Developing Rule of Law Strategies in Peace Operations

Laure-Helene Piron

Justice Advisor, Department for International Development

Bill Schabas

Director, Irish Centre for Human Rights

This and other PKSOI publications can be found on the USAWC/PKSOI site at
<http://www.carlisle.army.mil/usacsl/IPapers.asp>.

The views expressed in this report do not necessarily reflect official policy or position of the United States Army War College, the Department of the Army, the Department of Defense, or any other Department or Agency within the U.S. Government. This report is cleared for public release; distribution is unlimited.